

Application No. 10/037,096
SD6851/S96528

REMARKS

Status of Claims

- Claims 1 - 24 are pending.
- Claims 13 – 23 stand allowable by the Office.
- Claims 1 – 12, and 24 stand rejected by the Office.

Amendments to the Claims

- Claims 5, 7 – 10 and 21 are as originally submitted.
- Claims 2 - 4, 6, 11 - 20 and 22 – 23 are as previously presented.
- Claims 1 and 24 are currently amended.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101:

Claims 1 – 12 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. The Office has submitted that the claims do not appear to produce a useful and tangible result to form the basis of a practical application needed to be statutory (Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility, IV, C, 2, b).

Regarding Claims 1 and 24:

Applicants respond that as amended, independent Claims 1 and 24 clearly recite useful and tangible results including: "...providing output of the simulation to one or more users to perform one or more actions selected from: displaying the output, monitoring behavior of one or more elements, controlling one or more elements; and, planning a route for one or more elements."

Application No. 10/037,096
SD6851/S96528

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as originally submitted, for example at page 2, lines 7 – 10 (simulation produces an output), page 1, lines 14 – 21 (multiple users), page 15, lines 3 – 5 (use of a visualizer), page 28, lines 21 – 23 (monitoring behavior), page 27, lines 6 – 23 (controlling elements) and page 27 lines 20 – 23 (route planning).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 24 are in condition for allowance and that the rejection to Claims 1 and 24 should be withdrawn.

Regarding Claims 2 – 12:

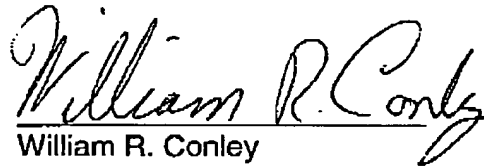
Applicants respectfully submit that as independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and that as Claims 2 – 12 depend from, and add additional limitations to Claim 1, Claims 2 – 12 are in condition for allowance and that the rejection to Claims 2 – 12 should be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/037,096
SD6851/S96528

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Office reconsider the patentability of the invention in light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Office is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account # 19-0131** for any necessary fees regarding this Reply.

Respectfully submitted,



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